



Ready

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The newsletter of a partnership program between EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Water, Office of Research and Development, and the National Estuary Program

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2010 Partners	1
Partner Spotlight	2
Groton Workshops	2
PREP Report	2
Resource Corner	3
EPA Workshop	4
CRE Goes International	4
TCS 2010 Presentations	4
Contacts	4



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www.epa.gov/cre*

2010 Partners Announced

For the third year, the Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) program has awarded direct technical assistance or funding via grant amendments to select partners in the National Estuary Program (NEP). Congratulations to the following partners, and make sure to visit the CRE website for updates.

Charlotte Harbor NEP (FL) will develop Conceptual Ecological Model(s) that will help other communities develop climate change adaptation plans.

Indian River Lagoon NEP (FL) will conduct an assessment of the vulnerability of coastal wetlands in the Indian River Lagoon to sea level rise.

The Lower Columbia River EP (OR) will update its Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan to address climate change impacts and adaptation options.

The Long Island Sound Study (CT/NY) will create an adaptation toolkit specifically designed for municipal governments.



The Puget Sound Partnership (WA) will work to complete a revised Action Agenda that incorporates climate change, in addition to developing climate change indicators and habitat restoration guidance that incorporates climate change adaptation.

Santa Monica Bay Estuary Partnership (CA) will investigate vulnerability of the Ballona wetlands complex to changes in temperature, precipitation, and sea level rise.

Sarasota Bay EP (FL) will identify the major impacts of sea-level rise to the city of Sarasota and surrounding locales, and integrate that information into the community's planning framework.

Partner Spotlight



GROTON, CT ADAPTATION PLANNING WORKSHOP SERIES COMPLETE

On June 18, 2010 the Long Island Sound Study and ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability held the last in a series of three climate change adaptation planning workshops in Groton, CT.

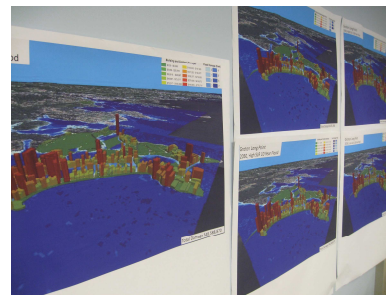
Workshops were convened in January, March, and June. Beginning with an overview of the adaptation planning process and projected regional impacts of climate change, workshop organizers led stakeholders through in-depth discussions to identify local vulnerabilities and viable alternatives for adapting to existing and forecasted changes. Innovative models developed by the New England Environmental Finance Center allowed participants to see economic impacts of either taking no action to prepare versus pursuing various adaptation strategies, contributing to lively and productive dialogue.



(Left) Workshop participants listening to a presentation

(Right) Model results depicting economic impacts of adaptation strategies

Photos: Missy Stults



Over 100 stakeholders representing federal, state, and local governments and the non-government and private sectors attended these workshops. Ultimately, workshop results will inform an adaptation plan for the town and serve as a model for other municipalities in the Northeast. For presentations and other resources from the workshops, visit <http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/planning/climate-adaptation-planning-resources/groton-connecticut-coastal-climate-adaptation-workshop-presentations?searchterm=Groton>

For more information, please contact Missy Stults, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability Adaptation Manager at melissa.stults@iclei.org, or Jennifer Pagach, Environmental Specialist for the CT DEP at jennifer.pagach@ct.gov.

PISCATAQUA ESTUARIES PARTNERSHIP COMPLETES CULVERT VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

In March, the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership completed a report entitled “Oyster River Culvert Analysis Project: Vulnerability and Required Capacity Under Climate Change and Population Growth”. The study assessed the capacity of existing road culverts in the Oyster River watershed to convey expected peak flow resulting from climate change and population growth.

Notable results included the finding that adaptation of the culvert system to climate change has a beneficial cost/benefit ratio; achievable Low Impact Development methods can significantly reduce culvert vulnerability under a number of future climate scenarios; and that even in the absence of climate change, many culverts will be too small to handle increased runoff resulting simply from development and additional impervious surface in the watershed. PREP is currently raising funds to replace the top priority fish passage barrier culvert with a new bridge structure, which would improve stream habitat and aquatic organism passage in addition to reducing flood risk to the adjacent neighborhood.

The report is available at:
http://www.prep.unh.edu/resources/pdf/oyster_river_culvert-prep-10.pdf





NEW REPORT FROM EPA

EPA's "Climate Change Indicators in the United States" report will help readers interpret a set of important indicators to better understand climate change. The report presents 24 indicators, each describing trends related to the causes and effects of climate change. It focuses primarily on the United States, but in some cases global trends are presented to provide context or a basis for comparison. EPA will use these indicators to collect data and generate analyses to monitor the effects/impacts of climate change in the United States, assist decision-makers on how to best use policymaking and program resources to respond to climate change, and assist EPA and its constituents in evaluating the success of their climate change efforts.

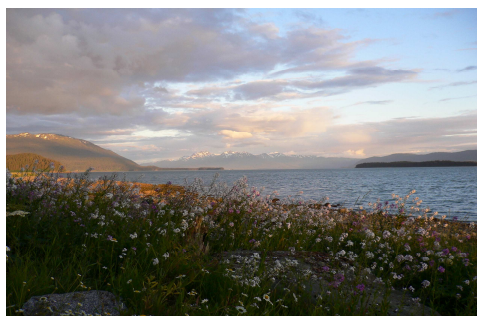
The report is available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/indicators.html>



NEW WEBSITE OFFERS RESOURCES FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

EPA has launched an updated website to help state and local governments understand, plan, and implement strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their jurisdictions. The State and Local Climate and Energy Program website brings together EPA resources to serve as a central location for state and local government officials seeking information and resources related to climate change and clean energy.

Visit <http://www.epa.gov/statelocalclimate/index.html> to learn more.



NOAA LAUNCHES CLIMATE SERVICE PORTAL

The NOAA Climate Service Portal (NCS Portal) will now serve as the central website for NOAA's climate data, products, and services.

Visit <http://www.climate.gov/>

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER WEBSITE

NOAA's Coastal Services Center (CSC) has recently updated its coastal adaptation website with new resources, contacts, and a public discussion forum.

Visit <http://collaborate.csc.noaa.gov/climateadaptation/default.aspx>

CRE PARTNERS FEATURED IN NATIONAL WORKSHOP

EPA held a workshop entitled “Resilient Water Management Strategies for a Changing Climate” jointly in New York and San Francisco from June 8-10. Goals of the workshop—which was also broadcast widely as a webinar—were to foster cross-region learning and collaboration in the areas of regional climate change science, climate-sensitive water management tools, and implementation of strategies to address water quality and quantity concerns.

As part of a panel showcasing climate change adaptation and management approaches, Ed Sherwood from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program gave a presentation on incorporating resiliency into habitat restoration planning, and Jennifer Adkins from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary gave a presentation on vulnerability assessment.

Thank you to CRE partners for participating in this workshop and helping to get the word out on the great work you’re doing.



Photos by Tristan Peter-Contesse except where noted

CRE on the International Stage

CRE partners have already been recognized as national leaders in coastal adaptation. This spring, at the Global Oceans Conference in Paris, France and the 1st World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change in Bonn, Germany, projects of the Long Island Sound Study and Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership were also highlighted in front of an international audience. To all partners—keep up the good work!

Keep the Good News Coming!

If you know of something happening in your area or come across a great resource, let us know! It may be featured in the next newsletter.

Contact peter-contesse.tristan@epa.gov

As always, you’re encouraged to pass this newsletter on. Help spread the word about coastal adaptation activities!

For more information on Climate Ready Estuaries, visit www.epa.gov/cre, or contact whitler.john@epa.gov or martinich.jeremy@epa.gov

TCS 2010 – PRESENTATIONS

The 22nd International Conference of The Coastal Society (TCS) was held from June 13-16 in Wilmington, NC. The theme of “Shifting Shorelines: Adapting to the Future” provided an ideal forum to share lessons from two years of experience with CRE, and to discuss similar efforts underway with other federal, state, and local governments and organizations.

Tristan Peter-Contesse, an ORISE Fellow with CRE, moderated a panel entitled “Innovative Approaches for Effective Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Communities”. The panel featured engaging presentations on the CRE program by John Whitler and Amanda Babson from EPA, and Charlotte Harbor NEP Director Lisa Beever.

Presentations gave audience members an overview of the CRE program in general, as well as detailed descriptions of expert elicitation workshops in San Francisco Bay, CA and stakeholder engagement strategies in Charlotte Harbor, FL.

The conference generated significant interest on the topic of adaptation, and demonstrated that CRE partners are on the cutting edge of responding to coastal vulnerabilities.

<http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs22/index.html>